

Testimony of Richard Parks in opposition to SB-306
March 23, 2011

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Richard Parks. I own and operate a sporting goods store and fishing outfitting business in Gardiner, Montana. I appear today on behalf of Northern Plains Resource Council. Many of our members were actively engaged in supporting the passage of the citizen initiative which is the subject of this bill. Our affiliate community group Beartooth Alliance, based in Cooke City, MT has been very involved in and supportive of the reclamation project near that community that I understand supplies the alleged underlying motivation for this bill.

The first thing you need to understand about this bill is that it isn't necessary to the project - it was set to go ahead until the state of Wyoming vetoed it because they didn't want the tails in question to be trucked through that state as would have been necessary.

The second thing you need to know is that if this bill was actually about allowing materials from approved reclamation and restoration projects to be processed by Golden Sunlight lines 15 through 18 could say so explicitly.

The testimony of proponents of this bill make clear that they view it the same way we do - an end run around the ban the citizens of this state enacted for very good reasons. As an alternative I suggest that those bitten by the gold bug go find an actual ore body, one that can be mined selectively rather than relying on the crude mass methods that have failed every place they have been deployed.

Make no mistake - this bill allows the opening of new open pit gold and silver mines using cyanide processing. For that reason we stand opposed to SB-306 and ask that it receive a Do Not Pass recommendation. I am available to answer any questions the committee may have and I thank you for the opportunity to appear on this issue.